

-- Cross-Reference to Related Applications

The present patent application is a §371 of International Application No. PCT/US99/11072 filed on May 19, 1999 and claiming priority to U. S. patent application serial no. 09/080,970 filed on May 19, 1998 in the names of Anh Si Le et al. <sup>now withdrawn</sup> --

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-77, 79-82, 84-87, 89, 91 and 98-114 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 78 and 97 as follows.

78. (Amended) A co-processed composition [consisting essentially of] comprising at least one water-soluble crystalline compound selected from the group consisting of [sugar alcohols, sugars and derivatives thereof] mannitol, erythritol, isomalt and lactitol, and at least one acidulent selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, ascorbic acid and lactic acid, wherein said water-soluble crystalline compound is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from 80 to 99 percent by weight and said at least one acidulent is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from 1 to 20 percent by weight, further wherein said co-processed composition is in the form of granules or agglomerates.

97. (Amended) The co-processed composition of claim 78, wherein the at least one water-soluble crystalline compound is mannitol and the at least one acidulent is phosphoric acid.

Please add new claims 115-128 as follows.

- - 115. A co-processed composition consisting essentially of at least one water-soluble crystalline compound selected from the group consisting of mannitol, erythritol, isomalt and lactitol, and at least one acidulent selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, ascorbic acid and lactic acid, wherein said water-soluble crystalline compound is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from 80 to 99 percent by weight and said at least one acidulent is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from 1 to 20 percent by weight, further wherein said co-processed composition is in the form of granules or agglomerates.

116. A co-processed composition consisting essentially of at least one water-soluble crystalline compound selected from the group consisting of mannitol, erythritol, isomalt and lactitol, and at least one acidulent selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, ascorbic acid and lactic acid, wherein said water-soluble crystalline compound is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from 80 to 99 percent by weight and said at least one acidulent is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from 1 to 20 percent by weight, further wherein said co-processed

composition is in the form of granules or agglomerates of said at least one water-soluble crystalline compound and said at least one acidulent with the at least one acidulent being trapped or contained within the at least one water-soluble crystalline compound in the granules or agglomerates.

117. A co-processed composition consisting essentially of at least one water-soluble crystalline compound selected from the group consisting of mannitol, erythritol, isomalt and lactitol, at least one acidulent selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, ascorbic acid and lactic acid, and water, wherein said water-soluble crystalline compound is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from 80 to 99 percent by weight, said water is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from 0.01 to 2 percent by weight, and the remainder of said co-processed composition is said at least one acidulent, further wherein said co-processed composition is in the form of granules or agglomerates.

118. A co-processed composition consisting essentially of at least one water-soluble crystalline compound selected from the group consisting of mannitol, erythritol, isomalt and lactitol, at least one acidulent selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, ascorbic acid and lactic acid, and water, wherein said water-soluble crystalline compound is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from 80 to 99 percent by weight, said water is present in said co-processed composition in an amount of from

0.01 to 2 percent by weight, and the remainder of said co-processed composition is said at least one acidulent, further wherein said co-processed composition is in the form of granules or agglomerates of said at least one water-soluble crystalline compound, said at least one acidulent and water with the at least one acidulent being trapped or contained within the at least one water-soluble crystalline compound in the granules or agglomerates.

119. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product containing the co-processed composition of claim 78 and an acid-sensitive additive.

120. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product of claim 119, wherein said acid-sensitive additive is a flavor.

121. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product containing the co-processed composition of claim 115 and an acid-sensitive additive.

122. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product of claim 121, wherein said acid-sensitive additive is a flavor.

123. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product containing the co-processed composition of claim 116 and an acid-sensitive additive.

124. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product of claim 123, wherein said acid-sensitive additive is a flavor.

125. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product containing the co-processed composition of claim 117 and an acid-sensitive additive.

126. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product of claim 125, wherein said acid-sensitive additive is a flavor.

127. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product containing the co-processed composition of claim 118 and an acid-sensitive additive.

128. Pharmaceutical product, food product or confectionery product of claim 127, wherein said acid-sensitive additive is a flavor. - -